

UNIT 2: THE CHURCH SERVES GOD

Session 4: People Prayed for Peter

BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 12:1-19

LIFE POINT

The church prays for others in times of need or trouble.

CHRIST FOCUS

Jesus met people's greatest need by providing the way for sin to be forgiven.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God uses the church to meet the needs of people in the community and around the world.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: July 23

BIBLE VERSE

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. James 5:16 (CSB)

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16 (KJV)

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16 (NIV)

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16 (ESV)

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16 (NKJV)

SCHEDULE AND PROPS**Huddle Ups** (optional)

Supplies (for each small group):

- "I Can't Hear You"—none
- "Roll a Prayer"—timer, die

Countdown Video (3 minutes)

Props: none

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Welcome and Prayer (5 minutes)

Props: none

True2Life Drama (or *Mooseberry video*) (3-5 minutes)

Props: table, 2 chairs, sheet of paper, pen

Connection Point Game (10 minutes)

Props: beach ball (or volleyball), painter's tape

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Bible Story (10 minutes)

Props: Bible, cellphone

Worship Song and Offering (3 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Bible Verse (5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Missions (5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Real Life Connections (3-5 minutes)

Props: none

MUSIC AND MEDIA

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
"All"
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and Bible Verse slides
- **True2Life Drama:**
Mooseberry Life Application video (optional)
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game and Life Point slides
- **Worship Song:**
"We Are Your Church"
- **Bible Story:**
Bible Story and Christ Focus slides; Notebook Bible Story video (optional)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**
Connection Point Bible Verse and Bible Verse slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**
Connection Point Missions and Connect to Missions slides; "Michael and Traci Byrd" missions video
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections, Real Life Questions, and Life Point slides

HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies *(for each small group)*:
 - “I Can’t Hear You”—none
 - “Roll a Prayer”—timer, die

HUDDLE UP: PRE-SESSION “I CAN’T HEAR YOU”

Prep: none

- Invite a volunteer to mouth a statement.
- Encourage kids to guess the statement.
- Use the following statements to play:
 - Purple elephants dance the polka.
 - Tacos taste better with hot sauce.
 - Musical monkeys play tiny kazoos.
 - Moms make mac-and-cheese.
 - Pirate ships sail the seas.
 - Worried worms wiggle wildly.
 - Pink flamingos often roller skate.
 - Silly sisters shop for socks.
 - Crazy kangaroos practice karate.
 - Picky people prefer pickles.
- **Leader tip:** *Whisper the phrase to the volunteer, or print this page so he can read the phrase for himself. (Fold the paper so he can only see his assigned phrase.)*
- Comment that kids could not hear their friends, but God always hears! Explain that God hears and answers prayer.
- Watch for the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups. Guide your small group to join the others to begin worship.

HUDDLE UP: POST-SESSION

“ROLL A PRAYER”

Prep: none

- Review the Life Point: **The church prays for others in times of need or trouble.**
- Lead kids to sit in a circle.
- Invite a child to roll the die to determine the topic:
 - 1—Places where I can pray
 - 2—People for whom I can pray
 - 3—Countries for which I can pray
 - 4—Times when I can pray
 - 5—Reasons I can tell God thank You
 - 6—STOP! Lead the group to pray for one thing that has been mentioned during the game.
- Challenge kids to pass the die all the way around the circle in 30 seconds.
- Explain that each child must shout an answer for the topic before passing the die to his neighbor. *(Do not allow repeated answers.)*
- Start the timer.
- Invite the person holding the die at the end of 30 seconds to roll it for the next round of play.
- Mention prayer needs in your church family or community.
- Lead a time of prayer, giving kids an opportunity to voice prayers for the needs you mentioned.
- **Leader Option for Older Kids:** *Make the game more challenging by requiring each child to shout an answer that begins with the same letter as her first name.*
- **Leader note:** *Adjust the amount of time for each round of play based on your number of children.*

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Countdown Video
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

(Play the Countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “All” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Hello, friends! Turn to someone and say: “Welcome to church!” *(Allow for responses.)*

I’m glad that all of us have gathered to worship and praise God. Everyone, stand and join me as we sing!

(Show the music video.)

(Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

What great singing! Singing praises to God is one way that the church worships. What are some other things that the church does? *(Allow for responses.)*

Those were really great answers! The church is a group of Christians who meet together to pray, to tell other people about Jesus, to worship God, to learn from the Bible, to meet the needs of others, and to encourage one another. Whew! The church has a lot of work to do! Today you will hear that one of the important things the church does is pray for others.

(Show Life Point slide.)

The church prays for others in times of need or trouble. Say that with me: **“The church prays for others in times of need or trouble.”**

Prayer is “talking to God and listening to Him.” God hears us when we pray! We can pray to God about anything, and we can ask for His help during times of need or trouble. Read with me James 5:16.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. James 5:16 *(CSB)*
- Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16 *(KJV)*
- Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16 *(NIV)*
- Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16 *(ESV)*
- Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16 *(NKJV)*

You can pray for yourself, but you also can pray for others! Praying for others is a great way to help them during difficult times. Let’s pray, right now! After we pray, we will check in with the True2Life team *(or the Mooseberry kids)*.

God, thank You for listening to us when we pray. We know that You hear us and will answer in the way that is best. Please remind us to talk to You often. Teach us to pray. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

TRUE2LIFE DRAMA

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Mooseberry Life Application* video *(optional)*
- ➔ People:
 - Ron *(a church kid who is learning about God)*
 - Lucy *(Ron’s church friend)*
- ➔ Props: table, 2 chairs, sheet of paper, pen
- ➔ Prep: none

Ron and Lucy sit at a table in their Sunday morning class. Lucy has a pen and a sheet of paper.

Lucy: Ron, do you want to add anything to the prayer request list?

Ron: No. I'm good.

Lucy: Didn't you tell me that you were worried about your friend Dave?

Ron: Yeah. Dave is struggling. He broke Mr. Reed's window, and he keeps lying to his parents. He seems to be having a hard summer.

Lucy: Maybe we should pray for him.

Ron: Sure, we can add him to the prayer requests. I just don't know how much it will help.

Lucy: What do you mean?

Ron: I get that we are supposed to pray. I always pray to thank God for my food, and I pray before I go to sleep. I've even memorized prayers from the Bible. I just wonder if it really matters that I pray for Dave or not.

Lucy: Well, I think the point of prayer is for us to talk to God about our lives. God wants us to talk to Him, and He will help us know how to help others, like Dave.

Ron: It sounds so easy when you say it. I'm really good at reading my Bible, but praying is harder for me. I don't know what to say to God.

Lucy: I would have never guessed that! You seem to have no problem talking to me.

Ron: I hate to break it to you, but you aren't God.

Lucy: *(laughing)* Boy, do I know that! I also know that we can talk to God like we talk to anyone else. We talk to God like He is a friend. We praise Him, thank Him, and ask for His help.

Ron: Dave needs a lot of help, and I need a lot of help to know what to say to him.

Lucy: Exactly. That's one of the jobs of the church. The church prays for others in times of need or trouble.

Ron: *(thinking)* "... in times of need or trouble." That's Dave for sure.

Lucy: Then we should pray for him. What do you want me to write on the prayer request sheet?

(Lucy writes on the paper as Ron speaks his next lines.)

Ron: OK. Let's ask God to help Dave learn more about Him and make better choices. Also, I think we need to ask God to help Dave deal with all of the consequences for his mistakes. That has to be hard.

Lucy: Perfect. So let's pray.

Ron: Now?

Lucy: Why not? I wrote your request on our prayer sheet. All you have to do is read that and talk to God.

Ron: All right, I'll do my best, ... but next week I'M taking the prayer requests.

(They exit.)

(END SCENE)

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* and *Life Point* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 4 kids
- ➔ Props: beach ball *(or volleyball)*, painter's tape

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Tape a line on the floor across the middle of your game area.*
- *Choose 4 kids.*
- *Form 2 teams.*
- *Invite teams to stand on opposite sides of the tape line.*
- *Direct teams to volley the beach ball back and forth across the line without letting the ball hit the floor.*
- *Lead the large group to say 1 word of the Life Point each time a player touches the ball.*

- Challenge teams to keep the ball from hitting the floor until the group completes the Life Point.
- If a team succeeds, choose 4 new kids and play again.
- If a team does not succeed, restart the game.
- Play as time allows.

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Game slide.)

Let's play a volleyball game! Who would like to play?
(Choose four kids. Form two teams.)

Today's game is for everyone, but you'll need to remember our Life Point. Let's review it before we begin the game.

(Show Life Point slide.)

The church prays for others in times of need or trouble. Say that with me: **"The church prays for others in times of need or trouble."**

Great! Teams, your challenge is to hit the ball back and forth across the line without letting the ball hit the floor. The rest of us will say one word of the Life Point each time you hit the ball. Try to keep the ball in the air until we finish saying the Life Point.

Do all of you understand how to play? (Answer any questions and play the game.)

The church does a lot of important work, but one of the most important things the church does is pray for others. When you have a big problem or need, it is nice knowing that there are people praying for you. God hears our prayers, and He always answers in the way that is best.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights (optional)
- ➔ Music: "We Are Your Church" (lead sheet available on DVD-ROM) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Jeremiah 33:3 says that God answers us when we pray to Him. Does that mean that God will do anything we ask? (Allow for responses.) No. We must trust that God knows what is best. God knows all things, and He works everything together for our good and to accomplish His plans.

Let's stand and sing. After we sing, we will hear a Bible story about the power of prayer.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Christ Focus and Bible Story slides; Notebook Bible Story video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible, cellphone

Option 1: Use the suggested props and tell the following Bible story.

Option 2: Play the Notebook Bible Story video.

Option 3: Tell the Optional Bible Story available on the DVD-ROM. This session's optional Bible story: "Jesus Said the Temple Should Be a Place of Prayer," Mark 11:15-18; Matthew 21:12-13.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Bible Story slide.)

Do you like to call or text your friends? What kinds of things do you and your friends talk about? (Allow for responses.)

(Show the cellphone.) I like to call and text my friends, too. Most of the time, my cellphone helps me stay connected and in touch with my friends. Other times my phone isn't much help at all. For example, I wanted to call a friend yesterday, but I hadn't charged my phone. The battery was dead! Have you ever had that problem? (Allow for responses.)

The good news is that we can always talk to God. We don't need a phone or a battery charger to talk to Him! God is always there, and He always listens to our prayers.

I've got an exciting Bible story to tell you today! I think you may be surprised to hear how God answered the prayers of some people who prayed for a man named Peter.

(Open Bible to Acts 12.)

Peter told about Jesus everywhere he went, and many people believed in Jesus because of Peter's message. Some people were not happy about the things Peter taught, and the king had Peter arrested!

Peter was put in jail even though he had done nothing wrong. Sixteen of King Herod's soldiers guarded Peter. When Peter's friends heard what happened, they began to pray.

The night before his trial, Peter was bound in chains. He slept between two soldiers, and two more soldiers guarded the door.

(Read Acts 12:7-8.)

Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. Striking Peter on the side, he woke him up and said, "Quick, get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. "Get dressed," the angel told him, "and put on your sandals." And he did. "Wrap your cloak around you," he told him, "and follow me."

Peter obeyed, but he did not understand what was happening. He thought he was dreaming. The angel led Peter past the first guard post. They walked past the second guard post. When they reached the iron gate that led into the city, it opened by itself! Peter followed the angel to the next street, and then the angel disappeared.

Peter realized that God had saved him from the prison. Peter went to the house where his friends were praying. He knocked on the door of the gate, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer. When Rhoda heard Peter's voice, she was so excited that she ran back inside to tell the others. She left Peter standing at the gate!

(Read Acts 12:15-16.)

"You're out of your mind!" they told her. But she kept insisting that it was true, and they said, "It's his angel." Peter, however, kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were amazed.

Peter motioned with his hand for everyone to be quiet. He told his friends how God rescued him from prison. Peter said to tell James and the others what had happened, and then he went away to a safe place.

The next morning the soldiers at the prison were confused! No one knew how Peter had escaped, and the king could not find him.

(Close the Bible.)

Do you remember what Peter was doing when the angel came to him? *(Allow for responses.)* Peter was sleeping! Peter wasn't sitting up all night being worried or afraid of what might happen to him. Peter was resting peacefully. In fact, the angel had to wake up Peter! How do you think Peter was able to sleep during such a time of trouble? *(Allow for responses.)* Peter's church friends were praying for him!

God uses the church to meet the needs of people in the community and around the world. **The church prays for others in times of need or trouble.**

(Show Christ Focus slide.)

People's greatest need is their need for a Savior. Jesus met people's greatest need by providing the way for sin to be forgiven. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior. Jesus suffered and died on the cross to take the punishment for people's sin. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead! He is alive in heaven today! People who choose to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord are called Christians. Christians can ask God to forgive their sin and look forward to spending forever with God.

I'm so thankful for Jesus! Salvation and forgiveness of sin is the greatest need of every person. It's important that we tell others what we know about Jesus and pray for people to hear the good news.

We also can pray for people's other needs. You may know someone who needs to get well or whose parents need a job. God wants us to talk to Him about our needs and the needs of others. He will listen and has the power to help!

WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights (*optional*)
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

God is so good to hear our prayers and answer us. Let's pray and thank God for caring about us and our needs.

God, You are loving and kind. Thank You for the opportunity to pray to You. Thank You for caring about us and helping us. Please lead us to pray for the needs of others. Teach us to pray boldly, knowing that You will answer in the way that is best. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Optional Giving Segment:

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money people give at church helps others in times of need or trouble. If you would like to give an offering today,

(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)

CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: none

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Explain that you will start the verse, stopping at a random word.*
- *Lead kids to stand, say the next word, and quickly sit.*
- *Continue saying the verse, stopping periodically and allowing kids to supply the next word.*

- *Play several times.*
- *Lead kids to say together the Bible verse.*

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. James 5:16 (CSB)
- Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16 (KJV)
- Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16 (NIV)
- Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. James 5:16 (ESV)
- Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16 (NKJV)

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

It's time to say today's Bible verse. Everyone, say with me James 5:16.

(Show Bible Verse slide—your preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

Prayer is powerful and effective! *Effective* means that prayer is useful and helpful. When you pray, you aren't just saying words. You are talking to God! He hears you, and He has the power to help.

(Lead the activity.)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides; “Michael and Traci Byrd” missions video
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)

When people visit St. Louis, Missouri, it is hard to miss the Gateway Arch, the world’s tallest arch. It is 630 feet tall, 630 feet wide, and is made of almost 900 tons of stainless steel! While the city has been known as America’s gateway to the West for quite a while, it is now often thought of as a gateway to reach the world with the good news about Jesus. Let’s watch a video about missionaries who do work for God in St. Louis.

(Show the missions video: “Michael and Traci Byrd.”)

(Show Connect to Missions slide.)

More than half of the people who live in St. Louis do not consider themselves to be a part of any religious group. The city has grown so much, Christians have not been able to start enough churches for all of the city’s people groups.

Missionaries like Michael and Traci Byrd want to start churches in St. Louis. Pray for the Byrds to have wisdom as they build relationships with people in the neighborhoods. Ask God to help the people in the area to want to learn more about Jesus.

(Invite a child to lead the group to pray. If no one volunteers, voice a prayer yourself.)

God, we pray for St. Louis! We especially pray for missionaries Michael and Traci Byrd. Please help them start churches in St. Louis. Give them the things they need to reach more people with the gospel. Please help the people in the area to want to learn about Jesus. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections*, *Real Life Questions*, and *Life Point* slides; microphone to take to individuals in group *(optional)*
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

Lead a conversation with your kids about today’s Bible story and Life Point. Show the Real Life Questions slides and discuss each question.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Real Life Questions slides.)

Do you ever wonder if prayer really matters? Does God really hear you when you pray? I am happy to tell you that prayer DOES matter, and God always hears you. Prayer is an important part of what the church does. Let’s hear what you know about prayer.

- What is prayer?
- What can people pray about?
- Why is it important to pray for others?
- Does God always answer your prayers the way you want?

(Show Life Point slide.)

The church prays for others in times of need or trouble. Say that with me: **“The church prays for others in times of need or trouble.”**

God uses the church to meet the needs of people in the community and around the world. One way we do that is through prayer!

I hope you will remember to spend time praying this week. Tell God about your needs and pray for the needs of others.

Thanks for coming to church today. I will pray for you and look forward to seeing you again next time.

Leader note: *If you plan to utilize the post-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*